8th Grade World History
Chapter 3: "Early Humans and the Agricultural Revolution
Section 1: "Hunters-Gatherers"

The Paleolithic Age

Stone Age- early period of human history, time when people used stone to make tools and weapons
Paleolithic Age "Old Stone Age"
The Paleolithic Age began about 2.5 million years ago and lasted until around 8,000 B.C.

Surviving in the Paleolithic Age

Paleolithic people often moved around in search of food.
Nomads- people who regularly move from place to place to survive
They traveled in groups, or bands, of about 20 or 30 members.

Paleolithic people survived by hunting and gathering.
Paleolithic people hunted buffalo, bison, wild goats, reindeer, and other animals, depending on where they lived.
Along coastal areas, they fished.
These early people also gathered wild nuts, berries, fruits, wild grains, and green plants.

Finding Food

Hunting

1. Men hunted large animals
2. Often had to search away from camp
3. Had to learn how animals behaved and how to hunt them
4. Developed tracking methods
5. Developed tools and weapons to help them hunt

Women stayed close to the camp, which was often located near a stream or other body of water.
They looked after the children and searched nearby woods and meadows for berries, nuts, and grains.

The Invention of Tools

Culture is a way of life for a group of people who share similar beliefs and customs.

Technology- tools and methods used to perform tasks
Flint- hard stone used for making tools and weapons

More Complex Tools

1. Spears
2. Bows and Arrows

3. Harpoons
4. Fishhooks
5. Sharp-edged tools to cut up plants and dig roots
6. Scraping Tools
7. Needles made from animal bones

Changing to Survive
Climate affected how Paleolithic people lived.

1. Made clothing from animals skins to stay warm
2. Sought protection in available natural shelters, such as caves and rock overhangs
3. Constructed tents and huts of animal skins, brush, and wood
4. In very cold climates, made shelters from ice and snow

Fire Sparks Changes
1. Fire provided warmth in cold caves
2. Provided light when it was dark and could be used to scare away wild animals
3. Cooked food tasted better and was easier to chew and digest
4. Meat that was smoked by fire did not have to eaten right away and could be stored

Language & Art
One important advancement was the development of spoken language.
Up until this time, early people communicated through sounds and physical gestures.

We use language to communicate information and emotions.
Language makes it easier for us to work together and to pass on knowledge.
We also use words to express our thoughts and feelings.

Early people also expressed themselves through art.
Early artists crushed yellow, black, and red rocks and combined them with animal fat to make their paints.
They used twigs and their fingertips to apply these paints to the rock walls.
They created scenes of lions, oxen, panthers, and other animals.
Few humans, however, appear in these paintings.

The Ice Ages
The Ice Age brought changes that threatened the very survival of humans.

What Changes Came With the Ice Ages
Ice Ages- long periods of extreme cold that affected all the Earth
The most recent Ice Age began about 100,000 years ago.
Thick sheets of ice moved across large parts of Europe, Asia, and North America.
As the ice sheets or glaciers, grew larger, the water levels of the oceans was lowered.

How Did the Ice Ages Affect Humans?
1. Humans adapted their diets by enriching their meals with fat
2. Built sturdier shelters
3. Learned to make warm clothing using animal furs
4. Used fire to help them stay warm
5. The last Ice Age lasted about 90,000 years, ending between about 9000 and 8000 B.C.

Section 2: "The Agricultural Revolution"

Neolithic Times
For the first time, people began staying in one place to grow grains and vegetables.
Gradually, farming replaced hunting and gathering as the main source of food.
At the same time, people began to domesticate, or tame, animals for human use.
Animals transported goods and provided meat, milk, and wool.

The Neolithic Age
The Neolithic Age began about 8000 B.C. and lasted until around 4000 B.C. – about 4,000 years.
The real change in the Neolithic Age was the shift from hunting and gathering to systematic agriculture.
System Agriculture- organized growing of food on a regular schedule

Big Changes for Humankind
Agricultural Revolution- development of settled farming during the Neolithic Age
Population of the Earth grew at a faster rate.

Widespread Farming
1. By 8000 B.C., people in Southwest Asia began growing wheat and barley.
They also domesticated pigs, cows, goats, and sheep.
2. Around 6000 B.C., people had begun growing wheat and barley in the Nile River Valley of Egypt.

3. In Central Africa, people grew root crops, called tubers, which included yams.
They also grew fruit crops, such as bananas.
4. Wheat and barley farming moved eastward into India between 8000 and 5000 B.C.
5. By 6000 B.C., people began in northern China were growing a food grain called millet and domesticating dogs and pigs.
6. By 5000 B.C., farmers in Southeast Asia were growing rice.
7. Between 7000 and 5000 B.C., people in Mexico and Central America were growing corn, squash, and potatoes.
They also domesticated chickens and dogs.

Life in the Neolithic Age
During the Neolithic Age, people settled in villages where they built permanent homes.
They located villages near fields so people could plant, grow, and harvest their crops more easily.
People also settled near water sources, especially rivers.

Neolithic Communities
Jericho- one of the oldest communities, farming village that grew in present-day Israel and Jordan (West Bank)
Catalhuyuuk- Neolithic community located in present-day Turkey between 6700 and 5700 B.C., covered 32 acres and was home to about 6,000 people
Shrines- holy places decorated with images of gods and goddesses

What Were the Benefits of a Settled Life?
1. Provided greater security
2. Steady food supplies created healthier, growing populations
3. As the population increased, more workers became available
4. Those individuals could grow more crops
5. Villagers produced more than they could eat, so they began to trade their food for supplies they could not produce themselves
6. Specialization occurred for the first time

Roles of Men and Women
1. Men worked in the fields to farm and herd animals
2. Men protected the village
3. Men emerged as family and community leaders
4. Women bore the children and stayed in the villages
5. Women made clothing from cloth and animal skin
6. Women managed food supplies and performed other tasks

The End of the Neolithic Age

New Farming Technology

1. Hoes for digging soil
2. Sickles for cutting grain
3. Millstones for grinding flour
4. Started making tools and weapons out of copper

Craftspeople in western Asia discovered that mixing copper and tin formed bronze.
Bronze stronger than copper.
Bronze Age- period between 3000 and 1200 B.C., where bronze became widely used

Civilizations Emerge

Complex cultures called civilizations began to develop.
Four of the great river valley civilizations- Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China- emerged around 3000 B.C.

Cities and Gov't

One characteristic of these early civilizations was that they developed cities and formed governments.
The first civilizations developed in river valleys, where fertile land made it easy to grow crops and feed large numbers of people.

People formed governments to protect themselves and their food supplies.
Monarchy- type of gov't led by king or queen
Monarchs created armies to defend against enemies and made laws to keep order.
They also appointed gov't officials who managed food supplies and building projects.

Religions

Religions emerged in the new civilizations to help people explain their lives.
Religions helped explain the forces of nature and the role of humans in the world.
Early people believed that gods were responsible for a community's survival.
Rulers claimed that their own power was based on the approval of the gods.

Social Structure

People in society were organized into groups.
These groups were defined by the type of work people did and the amount of wealth or power they had.

1. Rulers, priests, gov’t officials, and warriors
2. Free people, including farmers, artisans, and craftspeople
3. Enslaved people

Writing and Art
To pass on information, people invented ways of writing.
These early systems used symbols in place of letters and words.
People used writing to keep accurate records and to preserve stories.

Civilizations also created art for enjoyment and practical purposes.